

Application No.: 10/629,850**Docket No.: 30017003-2 US (1509-408)****REMARKS**

Initially, applicants note the rejections of claims 16 and 22 refer to Haines that is not of record. The examiner is requested to provide a complete citation of the Haines reference and to indicate the statutory basis, if any, for the rejection of claims 16 and 22 on Haines.

Independent claims 1, 16 and 22 have been amended to define applicants' contribution to the art with greater particularity as have former independent claims 23 and 25 that are now respectively dependent on claims 1 and 16. In addition, claims 23 and 25, as well as claims 24 and 26-28, now positively indicate coverage of a program storage medium, as well as a program storage device. Dependent claims 2, 10-12, 17, 19 and 28 have been amended to define applicants' contribution to the art with greater particularity. Claims 29-39, the subject matter of which is disclosed in connection with Figure 8, have been added to provide applicants with the protection to which they are deemed entitled. Claims 20 and 21 have been canceled to expedite prosecution and reduce filing fees since the subject matter thereof is essentially covered by claim 19. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 16 and 22 is found on page 12, lines 19 and 29, page 13, lines 2-4.

The claims, as submitted, distinguish over the applied reference, Ohta (US 2001/0029531). Each of independent claims 1, 16 and 22 requires a network to include plural printers and an access point for enabling messages from a wireless mobile device

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to be relayed to the plural printers via the network and to send at least one user preference for printer capability for a file to be printed from the mobile device to the access point, thence to a networked print controller. In Ohta messages from portable digital device 11 are not transmitted to access point 16; instead, as illustrated in Figure 4 and described in paragraph 0040, the signal from portable digital device 11 is transmitted to print station 12C. In the embodiments of Figures 15A, 15B, 16A, 16B, 17A, 17B, 19A, 19B, 20A, 20B, 21A, 21B, 23A, 23B, 24A, 24B, 25A, and 25B there is no transmission to access point 16; instead, there is selective transmission to one of plural print stations in the range of portable digital device 11. Such an arrangement is disadvantageous because it requires each print station to include a receiver. With the method and apparatus of claims 1, 16 and 22, similar coverage can be obtained without having a receiver at each of the print stations and network traffic can be reduced.

Claims 2 and 24, as amended, distinguish over Ohta by requiring the matching to include combining indications of the measured wireless signal strength with a plurality of stored wireless signal strengths between the access point in each of the printer locations and comparing the combined indications. In Ohta the wireless signal strength is measured at each printer, thereby requiring more measuring equipment and network traffic than the invention of claims 2 and 24.

Claim 11 distinguishes over Ohta by requiring a plurality of access points and the strongest signal strengths of the printer and mobile device to be equal and by selecting the printer that is to print the file by selecting the printer having its second strongest signal strength. In Ohta there is only one access point, there is no indication of the

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strongest signal strengths to be equal and the selected printer is always the printer having the strongest signal strength.

Claim 12 distinguishes over Ohta by requiring the network to have plural access points and by selecting the printer that is to print the file by selecting the printer having the largest number of non-zero signal strengths of the access points in common with the measured signal strengths of the mobile device.

Newly added claims 29-39 distinguish over Ohta by requiring, inter alia,

(a) measuring the strengths of the signals as received at the more than one access points as transmitted from the mobile device,

(b) combining (i) indications of the measured signal strengths with (ii) stored signal strengths for transmission of signals between the access points and the plural printers to derive indications of total signal strengths from the mobile device to the plurality of printers via all existing signal paths from the mobile device to the plurality of printers and including the plurality of access points, and

(c) selecting the printer on the basis of the indications of the total signal strengths.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are in order.

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